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NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
1802 CHICAGO AVENUE

James Biery
492-5000

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IMMEDIATE

Sent to City Desks

Northwestern University Urban Journalism Center
Reports Study On Riot-Prone American Cities

Which American cities are most likely to have race riots?

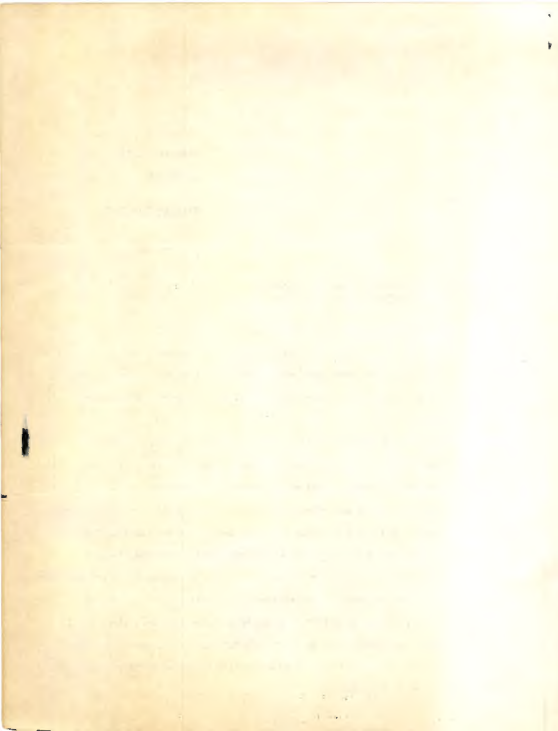
Northwestern University's Urban Journalism Center has completed a study which picks out riot-prone cities. The study was previewed by some 100 members of the Associated Press Managing Editors Association (Oct. 19), meeting in Chicago for their annual conference.

The computerized study of 85 cities by Prof. John Maloney, the Center's acting director of research, also sorts out some factors that make certain cities susceptible to high rates of murder, rape, general crime, suicide, auto deaths, and unemployment.

The aim of the study, explained Maloney, was not to predict such events as riots, but to group and compare American cities in convenient and meaningful ways.

"It is a foregone conclusion that any urban area is vulnerable to such problems as traffic fatality, crime or riots," he said. "Moreover, it is obvious that certain areas are more vulnerable to certain of these problems than are others."

For example, Maloney said that it might be expected that race riots would be more likely to occur in Chicago than in the Duluth-Superior, Minn., area, but that there has been a lack of objective means of appraising the vulnerability of each of the many areas to each problem.



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"It was the overall purpose of this study to examine the characteristics of many such areas and determine what city planners, journalists, or interested citizens could reasonably expect in terms of such problems for such areas," Maloney said.

Maloney's statistical analysis used 70 different kinds of information for each city. This ranged from the percent of citizens over 65 to the percent of workers using public transportation. When sorted out, these facts about each area could be grouped in eight bunches, or factors.

Cities could then be described in terms of Metropolitanism, Urban Growth, Southern Syndrome, Sporadic Employment, Highway Spending, Negro Concentration, Suburban Syndrome and Low Density. Each of these terms gave a convenient name to a number of items that were found by a procedure called factor analysis to be highly correlated.

The factor of Metropolitanism, for example, was comprised of seven major items: high suburban population, high metropolitan population, high Negro population, high central city population density, high amount of money spent per capita on police, large number of governments, and high percentage of people using public transportation.

The factor most clearly associated with riots was Metropolitanism. Others were Negro Concentration, High Density (reverse of the factor of Low Density) and the absence of the Southern Syndrome.

Of the 25 cities which were calculated to be most riot-prone on the basis of sharing these factors, 22 actually had had riots in the four years prior to August, 1967, when Maloney checked his predictions against the riots reported in two national newsmagazines. (See attached sheet for riot-prone cities.)

"In its present form," said Maloney, "the study makes up an index of where trouble spots are likely to be. If the same kinds of things make for riots in the future as they have in the past, we would assume these cities will have a high probability of riots.

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Heading the list of trouble spots were New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Detroit, Jersey City, Philadelphia, Peoria, Newark, Cleveland and San Francisco.

However, the Gary-Hammond-East Chicago area, and Trenton and Indianapolis, which also were among the top 25 riot-prone areas, did not have riots.

"This implies two things," suggested Maloney. "They just missed having a riot by the skin of their teeth or there was something unusual about those cities that kept them from having riots."

He said one theory had been put forward to explain Gary. The recent election of a Negro in a primary contest could have encouraged the Negro community to believe its goals could be accomplished by more legitimate means.

"As you see," Maloney told the Associated Press Managing Editors, "the computer is not going to put reporters and editors out of business. While our formula can point to certain overall characteristics of cities and provide comparative information so that you and the city planners can know what is par for problems of cities, there are special conditions at work, as in the case of Gary, that require good reporting to understand."

Maloney cautioned that a great deal of further research was necessary to understand why factors in the riot formula characterize riot-prone cities.

The Associated Press Managing Editors visited the Urban Journalism Center during the course of their meeting in Chicago. The Center was established at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism in 1966 with a four-year Ford Foundation grant of \$1,092,000.

"The Center offers four separate programs to meet the needs of the nation's press in covering urban growth and change," explained I. W. Cole, Director of the Center and Dean of the Medill School of Journalism. He said the Center provides a three-month seminar for working newsmen on the forces of urbanization, a specialized urban study program for individual newsmen, short courses for press executives, and off-campus courses for newsmen.

The visiting managing editors took part in seminars conducted by regular lecturers of the three-month seminar for working newsmen. In addition to Maloney, they included three other Northwestern University professors. David W. Minar, professor of political science, lectured on urban government; Raymond W. Mack, professor of sociology, lectured on race relations; and Robert H. Wiebe, professor of history, lectured on violence in America.

Prof. Wilbur Thompson, Wayne State University department of economics, lectured on urban economics.

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85 METROPOLITAN AREAS RANKED BY STATISTICAL LIKELIHOOD OF RIOTS

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Actual Riot Experience Prior to 8-5-67</u>	<u>No Riot Experience Prior to 8-5-67</u>
1.	New York	
2.	Chicago	
3.	Los Angeles	
4.	Detroit	
5.	(Jersey City)	
6.	Philadelphia	
7.	Peoria	
8.	(Newark)	
9.	Cleveland	
10.	San Francisco	
11.	St. Louis	
12.	Flint	
13.		Gary-Hammond-East Chicago
14.	Baltimore	
15.	Milwaukee	
16.	Tampa-St. Petersburg	
17.	Minneapolis-St. Paul	
18.	Kansas City	
19.	Washington, D. C.	
20.		(Trenton)
21.	Portland, Ore.	
22.	Lansing	
23.	Buffalo	
24.	Toledo	
25.		Indianapolis
26.	Louisville	
27.		Pittsburgh
28.		Denver
29.	Phoenix	
30.		Seattle
31.	Miami	
32.	Wichita	
33.	Omaha	
34.		Duluth-Superior
35.		Des Moines
36.	Atlanta	
37.	Cincinnati	
38.	Grand Rapids	
39.		Ft. Worth
40.	Erie	
41.	Akron	
42.	San Diego	
43.	Dallas	
44.		Salt Lake City
45.	(Paterson-Clifton-Passaic)	

--more--
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<u>Rank</u>	<u>Actual Riot Experience</u> <u>Prior to 8-5-67</u>	<u>No Riot Experience</u> <u>Prior to 8-5-67</u>
46.	Dayton	New Orleans
47.		Columbus, Ohio
48.		Youngstown-Warren
49.		Houston
50.		
51.	Sacramento	Oklahoma City
52.	Rochester	Davenport-Rock Island-Moline
53.		Richmond
54.	Memphis	Jacksonville
55.		Syracuse
56.	Albany-Schenectady-Troy	Canton
57.		San Antonio
58.		Allentown-Bethlehem
59.		San Jose Easton
60.		Wilkes Barre-Hazleton
61.		Norfolk-Portsmouth
62.		
63.		Reading
64.		Spokane
65.		Charlotte
66.	Wilmington, Del.	
67.		
68.		
69.		
70.	Nashville	Chattanooga
71.	Birmingham	Fresno
72.		Tulsa
73.		San Bernardino-Riverside
74.		Tacoma Ontario
75.		Harrisburg
76.		Utica-Rome
77.		Honolulu
78.		El Paso
79.		Johnstown
80.		Knoxville
81.		Beaumont-Port Arthur
82.		Mobile
83.		Shreveport
84.		
85.		

UN 1-3,5,7,8,10
CN 1-4,8,9,15-17 CB 1,3
NW 1,3,4, NB 1,2
LA, 2AB, 14,21,23,24,25